

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 231305Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8708

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IR

SUBJ: NEWSWEEK'S DOMESTIC EDITION PLAYS DOWN STORY ON SHAH

REF: TEHRAN 8909

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF OCT 14 DOMESTIC ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK, WHICH GIVES STORY ON SHAH AND IRAN FAR LESS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE THAN EUROPEAN EDITION DISTRIBUTED IN IRAN. SHAH'S PICTURE IS REPLACED ON COVER BY JULIE AND DAVID EISENHOWER AND STORY APPEARS MINUS BOXES WHICH EUROPEAN EDITION HAD ON SAVAK, EUROPEAN EDITOR BEHR'S INTERVIEW WITH SHAH, AND BIOS OF SIX PROMINENT IRANIANS. DOMESTIC ISSUE GENERALLY TONES DOWN SOME SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS ABOUT IRAN, MOST NOTABLY ON NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT ASCRIBES TO A SAVAK SOURCE AN ESTIMATE OF 20,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN JAIL, WHEREAS EUROPEAN EDITION GIVES A 50,000 ESTIMATE WHICH IT LABELS AS COMING FROM "EXILED OPPOSITION GROUPS." US EDITION SAYS "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MAINTAINS THAT LARGE NUMBER OF IRANIANS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY EXECUTED FOR POLITICAL OPPOSITION." EUROPEAN EDITION CITES EXILES' CLAIM THAT SAVAK TRIALS IN MILITARY COURTS HAVE LED TO "NO LESS THAN 200 EXECUTIONS DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS ALONE."

2. COMMENT: NEWSWEEK MATTER HAS FADED FROM PRESS, AND
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GOI CONCERN ALSO APPEARS TO BE LESSENING (REFTEL). IF SENIOR

IRANIAN OFFICIALS RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN, EMBASSY OFFICERS PLAN
TO CALL TO THEIR ATTENTION LESS CONTENTIOUS COVERAGE IN
DOMESTIC NEWSWEEK EDITION.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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